

# Twenty years of European social policy: key events from 1999 to 2018

**Boris Fronteddu and Denis Bouget**

## Introduction: background and sources

In celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the annual review *Social policy in the European Union: state of play* (hereafter referred to as the *Bilan social*, its French title), we have collated and summarised the key events in European Union social policy from 1999 to 2018. Our main source is the set of chronologies published each year in the *Bilan social* since 2001. These were initially drafted by Christophe Degryse, editorial director until 2009, then by Cécile Barbier, researcher at the OSE, from 2010 to 2017. Boris Fronteddu created succinct chronologies for the years 1999 and 2000 for the purpose of this chapter. The full 2018 chronology, summarised here, has been produced by Boris Fronteddu and Denis Bouget and is **available online**.<sup>1</sup>

Each year, the *Bilan social* contains a 20-page chronology listing more than a hundred events, publications and decisions. To draw up a chronology covering 20 years (1999-2018), we had to make a selection of these entries, choosing the key political

### Note to the reader

Some pointers on how to read the chronology. Generally speaking, each year is summarised, with no source given. As of 2015, the chronology of key events in a particular year is published in the *Bilan social* of the next year. For example, the 2017 chronology is published in the 2018 *Bilan social* book. Most social policy directives are decided upon by the Council and the European Parliament; when this is the case, therefore, it is not explicitly mentioned. Only Council directives are specifically identified as such.

The dates when the directives were adopted are included in their title. The source given is a reference to the Official Journal of the European Union (OJ) in which each was published, with the date of publication. For framework agreements, we refer to the signing of these agreements by the social partners, and their transposition into directives.

The official titles of the Court of Justice of the European Communities and the Commission of the European Communities changed with the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon (2009). We do not generally give internet links; the source should make it easy to find the text in question.

1. *The European Union in 2018: key events*, available online at [bit.ly/ETUIBilan1999-2019](http://bit.ly/ETUIBilan1999-2019)

texts and, above all, texts making up part of the European social regulatory framework: regulations, directives, decisions and social policy case law from the Court of Justice of the European Union. The ‘Summaries of EU Legislation’ on the EUR-Lex website (a portal providing access to EU law) also helped us to trace the history, sometimes over many years, of pieces of legislation which have played a key role in the development of European social policy.

We also referred to publications by Amandine Crespy (2019), Philippe Pochet (2019) and Jean Lapeyre (2017) to help us identify long-term trends in social policy.

1999

**1 January:** as part of the third stage of Economic and Monetary Union, the euro becomes the official currency in eleven Member States (DE, AT, BE, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, PT), with the conversion rates to the previous currencies set definitively (OJ L 139 of 11 May 1998, 1-8).

**15 March:** the Commission of the European Communities (hereafter, the European Commission), under its President Jacques Santer, resigns following a report by independent experts revealing certain malfunctions, and fearing a motion of censure in the European Parliament (EP) (IP/99/179).

**1 May:** entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam. Including the Social Protocol, the Treaty establishes equality between men and women. Henceforth, measures concerning equal treatment and equal pay between men and women will be adopted by a qualified majority, through the co-decision procedure. The Treaty also defines human health protection as a cross-cutting principle in all Community policies (OJ C 340 of 10 November 1997: 1-144).

**28 June:** the Council adopts Directive 1999/70/EC concerning the framework agreement on fixed-term work, signed on 18 March by the social partners: the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the Union of Industrial and Employers’ Confederations of Europe (UNICE) and the European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services and Services of general interest (CEEP). The aim of the agreement is to tackle discrimination against workers on fixed-term contracts and to prevent abuse arising from the use of successive fixed-term contracts (OJ L 175 of 10 July 1999: 43-48).

**22 July:** following the European elections, the European Parliament has 626 members. Turnout is 49.5 %, with the European People’s Party (EPP) winning 233 seats (37.2% of the total), the Party of European Socialists (PES) 180 (28.7%), and the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party Group (ELDR) 50 (8 %) (EP, Results of the European elections – 1999 – European Union).<sup>2</sup>

---

2. See <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/fr/in-the-past/previous-elections>

**16 September:** Romano Prodi, from the Italian Christian Democratic party, is appointed President of the European Commission (OJ L 192 of 24 July 1999: 53-54).

**21 September:** as a result of the *Albany* judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Communities (hereafter the Court of Justice of the European Union, CJEU), representatives of employees and employers may agree collectively to set up a single sectoral pension fund and apply jointly to the authorities to make affiliation to the fund compulsory for all persons belonging to that sector (CJEU, case C-67/96).

**15-16 October:** the first Civil Society convention organised at European level takes place at the European Economic and Social Committee (ECSC), with a view to defining ‘organised civil society’ (EESC, *The civil society organised at European level. Proceedings of the first Convention*, Brussels, 15 and 16 October 1999).

**26 October:** pursuant to the CJEU *Sirdar* judgment, the armed forces of the Member States must, in general, respect the principle of equal treatment of men and women. Nevertheless, Community law contains strictly limited exceptions when gender is a major determinant for carrying out an activity (CJEU, case C-273/97).

2000

**15 February:** pursuant to the CJEU judgment *Commission v France*, employed persons and self-employed persons working in a Member State other than the state of residence are not subject to the social security legislation of the state of residence (CJEU, case C-34/98).

**24 March:** the European Council adopts the Lisbon Strategy 2000–2010, which aims to make the EU ‘the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustained economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion’. The strategy sets political, economic and social targets, particularly in the fields of education, training and combating climate change. To this end, the Council intends to extend and strengthen the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) (Conclusions, 24 March 2000).

**23 June:** the EU and the 77 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries sign the Cotonou Agreement (2000-2020). Replacing the Lomé Agreements first signed in 1975, the Agreement outlines plans for EU-ACP relations over the next 20 years. The agreement is based on development cooperation, as well as political, economic and trade cooperation (OJ L 317 of 15 December 2000: 3-353).

**28 June:** the European Commission adopts a new Social Policy Agenda, setting out guidelines for a multiannual strategy to ‘modernise the European social model’. The Commission invites the social partners to ‘play their part fully at all levels’ (COM (2000) 379 final).

**29 June:** adoption of Directive 2000/43/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin. The text prohibits any direct or indirect discrimination based on the ethnic origin of the person and authorises specific positive discrimination measures (OJ L 180 of 19 July 2000: 22-26).

**3 October:** pursuant to the CJEU *Simap* judgment, ‘on call’ time for members of a ‘primary care team’ must be considered as working time if they are physically present at health centres. However, for doctors who, when on call, solely need to be contactable at any time, only the time when they are actually engaged in primary care activities should be considered as working time (CJEU, Case C-303/98).

**27 November:** adoption of Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation. This text establishes a general framework to combat all forms of discrimination at work, and in relation to membership of certain bodies. It underlines the importance of social dialogue in tackling discrimination (OJ L 303 of 2 December 2000: 16-22).

**7-9 December:** proclamation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights at the Nice European Council. The Council adopts the Social Policy Agenda, and the Intergovernmental Conference agrees on a draft Treaty of Nice. Social protection and inclusion are brought into the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) system (Conclusions, 7-9 December 2000).

2001

**22 February:** the European Commission adopts its first ‘scoreboard on implementing the social policy agenda’, listing the progress made in the field of social policy, in line with the Social Policy Agenda adopted at the European Council in Nice (COM (2001) 104 final).

**26 February:** signature of the Treaty of Nice, preparing for enlargement covering ten new Member States. Co-decision is extended to a wide range of areas, such as measures to combat discrimination or economic and social cohesion. The qualified majority process is reformed and extended to 27 new policy areas, including common trade policy and judicial cooperation in civil matters. The Treaty also facilitates the use of enhanced cooperation (OJ C 80 of 10 March 2001: 1-87).

**12 July:** in its *Smits and Peerbooms* judgment, the CJEU confirms that medical activities fall within the scope of the freedom to provide services, while emphasising the sector’s undeniable particularities. These can, in this case, justify the prior authorisation system established by the Netherlands for reimbursement by the Dutch sickness insurance fund of care provided in a non-contracted health establishment located in another Member State (CJEU, case C-157/99).

**8 October:** following 31 years of negotiations, the Employment and Social Affairs Council (EPSCO) adopts regulation (EC) No 2157/2001 on the statute for a European company (SE), and directive 2001/86/EC on worker participation. An SE is a public limited-liability company with minimum capital of 120,000 euros. Transnational information and consultation of workers are guaranteed in this new business structure (OJ L 294 of 10 November 2001: 1-32).

**14-15 December:** the European Council, meeting in Laeken under the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, adopts the Declaration on the Future of the European Union, and convenes a convention to prepare for the next Intergovernmental Conference, paving the way for a major reform of the EU (Conclusions, 14 and 15 December 2001).

2002

**11 March:** adoption of Directive 2002/14/EC establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees in companies. The text sets out minimum procedural rules for informing and consulting workers on a company's economic situation and employment (OJ L 80 of 23 March 2002, 29-34).

**11 March:** adoption of Directive 2002/15/EC on the organisation of the working time of persons performing mobile road transport activities. The text sets minimum health and safety standards for workers in the sector. Self-employed drivers are excluded from the scope of the directive (OJ L 80 of 23 March 2002: 35-39).

**16 July:** the ETUC, CEEP and UNICE/UEAPME<sup>3</sup> sign an autonomous agreement on telework. This agreement has a number of aims, *inter alia* to define the concept of telework to improve its quality and to guarantee teleworkers the same rights as employees working at a company site. The agreement also emphasises the voluntary nature of telework (*Framework agreement on telework*, 16 July 2002).

**23 September:** adoption of Directive 2002/73/EC amending Council Directive 76/207/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions. It defines sexual harassment and stipulates the removal of upper limits for damages in most cases. The directive requires the Member States to establish equal opportunities agencies (OJ L 269 of 5 October 2002: 15-20).

**23 September:** adoption of Directive 2002/74/EC amending Council Directive 80/987/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer. The directive amends the definition of the state of insolvency to bring it into line with the new legislative trends in Member States (OJ L 270 of 8 October 2002: 10-13).

---

3. European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.

**23 September:** adoption of a programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008). This programme, with a budget of 312 million euros, aims to improve information and knowledge on public health, to strengthen the capacity of the public authorities and health systems to react to threats quickly and in a coordinated manner, and to promote health and prevent disease (OJ L 271 of 9 October 2002: 1-12).

**6 November:** the European Commission adopts Regulation (EC) No 2204/2002 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty establishing the European Community. The regulation provides for exemptions for State aid for employment. Member States have to check the compatibility of their State aid with the criteria and modalities established by the Commission (OJ L 337 of 13 December 2002: 3-14).

## 2003

**4 March:** the Council adopts the decision establishing a Tripartite Social Summit for growth and employment. ‘The task of the Summit shall be to ensure ... that there is a continuous concertation between the Council, the Commission and the social partners. It will enable the social partners at European level to contribute, in the context of their social dialogue, to the various components of the integrated economic and social strategy, including the sustainable development dimension’ (Art. 2) (OJ L 70 of 14 March 2003: 31-33).

**27 March:** adoption of Directive 2003/18/EC amending Council directive 83/477/EEC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work. The directive creates a general ban on activities exposing workers to asbestos fibres and strengthens prevention measures for workers de facto exposed to the product (demolition work, removal of asbestos, etc.) (OJ L 97 of 15 April 2003: 48-52).

**13 May:** reversing its previous case law (*Smits* judgment of 12 July 2001, referred to above), the CJEU concludes, in its *Müller-Fauré* judgment, that the evidence and arguments put to the Court do not show that removal of the requirement for prior authorisation would undermine the essential characteristics of the Netherlands sickness insurance scheme. The principle of freedom to provide services precludes legislation which requires the insured to obtain prior authorisation, even under a benefits-in-kind scheme, in the case of non-hospital care provided in another Member State by a non-contracted provider (CJEU, Case C-385/99).

**22 July:** adoption of Regulation (EC) No 1435/2003 on the Statute for a European Cooperative Society and of directive 2003/72/EC on the involvement of employees. Cooperative societies operating in at least two Member States can now sign up to this new judicial entity to facilitate their administrative and bureaucratic procedures (OJ L 207 of 18 August 2003: 1-36).

**24 July:** pursuant to the CJEU *Altmark* judgment, financial subsidies to public services do not constitute State aid under Community law (CJEU, case C-280/00).

**9 October:** pursuant to the CJEU *Jaeger* judgment, time spent on call by doctors, when their presence is required at the hospital itself, should be considered as working time, even if they are authorised to rest at their working place during periods when their services are not required (CJEU, case C-151/02).

**16 October:** the heads of state and government of the euro area appoint Frenchman Jean-Claude Trichet to the post of President of the European Central Bank for eight years (OJ L 277 of 28 October 2003: 16).

**4 November:** adoption of Directive 2003/88/EC concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time. This directive sets minimum standards for daily and weekly rest, breaks, maximum weekly working time and the duration of night work, and establishes derogations subject to particular conditions (OJ L 299 of 18 November 2003: 9-19).

2004

**27 January:** the Community of European Railways (CER) and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) sign two joint agreements. The first of these aims, in particular, to facilitate the interoperability of workers, to guarantee a sufficient level of safety and to tackle social dumping. The second is intended to strike a balance between, on the one hand, the protection of workers' health and safety, and, on the other, the flexibility of rail transport services (OJ L 195 of 27 July 2005: 18-21).

**29 April:** adoption of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems. The purpose of the regulation is to facilitate the free movement of persons through ensuring the portability of their rights to social security benefits (OJ L 166 of 30 April 2004: 1-123).

**1 May:** the European Union opens its doors to ten new Member States (Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Cyprus and Malta) and becomes the 'Europe of 25' (OJ L 168 of 1 May 2004).

**1 June:** launch of the European health insurance card. The card replaces the forms which were previously needed for medical treatment in a Member State other than the State of residence (OJ L 276 of 27 October 2003: 19-21).

**20 July:** following the European elections, the European Parliament now has 732 members. The turnout is 45.5%, with the European People's Party winning 268 seats (36.6% of the total), the Party of European Socialists (PES) 200 seats (27.3%) and the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) 88 seats (12%) (Results of the European elections – 2004 – European Union).<sup>4</sup>

---

4. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/en/in-the-past/previous-elections>

**8 October:** the European social partners sign an autonomous agreement on work-related stress. Its purpose is to make employers more aware of work-related stress and equip them to detect and prevent it (*Framework agreement on work-related stress*, 8 October 2004).

**22 November:** the Portuguese José Manuel Barroso, member of the EPP, is appointed President of the European Commission (OJ L 333 of 9 November 2004: 12-13).

**13 December:** adoption of Directive 2004/113/EC concerning equal treatment of women and men outside the field of work. The directive aims to combat direct and indirect gender discrimination. Differences of treatment are only justified if they pursue a legitimate aim, such as protection against sexual violence (OJ L 373 of 21 December 2004: 37-43).

## 2005

**1 April:** the European Trade Union Institute, the European Trade Union College and the Trade Union Technical Bureau for health and safety (TUTB) merge to form the European Trade Union Institute for research, education, and health and safety (the ETUI – European Trade Union Institute<sup>5</sup>).

**28 June:** the Council adopts two regulations, Regulation (EC) No 1055/2005 and (EC) No 1056/2005. The former amends Regulation (EC) No 1466/97 on the strengthening of the surveillance of budgetary positions and the surveillance and coordination of economic policies, while the latter amends Regulation (EC) No 1467/97 on speeding up and clarifying the implementation of the excessive deficit procedure. This completes the revision of the Stability and Growth Pact, creating greater flexibility within this excessive deficit procedure (OJ L 174 of 7 July 2005: 1-9).

**18 July:** the Council adopts Directive 2005/47/EC on the Agreement between the CER and the ETF on certain aspects of the working conditions of mobile workers engaged in interoperable cross-border services in the railway sector (see 27 January 2004) (OJ L 195 of 27 July 2005: 15-18).

**7 September:** adoption of Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications. This directive aims to ensure simplified and automatic recognition of professional qualifications obtained in a Member State other than the host Member State, thereby facilitating the free movement of workers and the provision of services in a country other than that where the qualifications were acquired (OJ L 255 of 30 September 2005: 22-142).

**4 October:** the European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI) obtains the status of European social partner thanks to its representativeness in the field of central public administration (CESI, 04-10-2005: *CESI recognised as social partner*).

---

5. <https://www.etuc.org/en/4-european-trade-union-institute>

**21 November:** the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT) and the Employers' Group of professional farming organisations in the European Union (GEOPA-COPA) sign an agreement on the reduction of workers' exposure to the risk of work-related musculo-skeletal disorders (MSD) in agriculture (EFFAT and GEOPA, Sectoral agreement EA (05)220F1, 21 November 2005).

**28 November:** the European Commission adopts a Decision on State aid in the form of public service compensation granted to certain undertakings entrusted with the operation of services of general economic interest (such as health establishments). Such State aid is not illegal as long as it is provided as compensation for a public service obligation. The level of the State aid must not exceed the amount needed to compensate for this obligation (OJ L 312 of 29 November 2005: 67-73).

2006

**25 April:** signing of the first European 'multi-sector' agreement on workers' health. The agreement is intended to protect workers exposed to crystalline silica and to minimise exposure and to increase knowledge on its impact on human health.

**5 April:** adoption of Directive 2006/25/EC on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to risks arising from physical agents. This directive sets minimum prevention standards for workplace design, workers' equipment and the procedures and methods used (OJ L 114 of 27 April 2006: 38-59).

**4 July:** the CJEU hands down its *Adelener* judgment interpreting a clause in the framework agreement of 18 March 1999 on fixed-term work. This clause implies that there must be 'objective reasons' for the renewal of successive fixed-term contracts (CJEU, Case C-212/04).

**1 November:** founding congress of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in Vienna. This confederation is the result of the merger of two large international bodies, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the World Confederation of Labour (WCL) (ITUC-CSI, Programme of the ITUC).

**5 December:** launch of the Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (PROGRESS), the new integrated programme for employment and social solidarity. With its budget of 700 million euros for the period 2007–2013, the programme aims to support the objectives set forth in the social policy agenda and the EU's overall employment and growth strategy (OJ L 315 of 15 November 2006: 1-8).

**12 December:** adoption of Directive 2006/123/EC, the so-called 'services directive'. This text crystallises the political tensions of the past two years, as it implies greater competition in the European services sector. In the final version, the 'country of origin principle' is replaced by the 'principle of freedom to provide services' (OJ L 376 of 27 December 2006: 36-68).

**20 December:** creation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) in support of workers laid off in a context of greater global economic competition. Its budget is not to exceed 500 million euros (OJ L 406 of 30 December 2006: 1-6).

## 2007

**1 January:** Slovenia adopts the euro as its currency, thereby becoming the 13<sup>th</sup> Eurogroup Member State (OJ L 195 of 15 July 2006: 25-27).

**1 March:** the European Agency for Fundamental Rights begins its work. Its task is to provide expertise to the Member States and their institutions on the protection of fundamental rights (OJ L 53 of 22 February 2007: 1-14).

**15 March:** adoption of Regulation (EC) No. 561/2006 on the harmonisation of certain social legislation relating to road transport. This regulation aims to promote convergence of the legislation on working conditions for professional drivers. It introduces a compulsory rest time of at least 45 consecutive hours every two weeks and increases the daily rest requirement (OJ L 102 of 11 April 2006: 1-14).

**19 March:** the Pan-European Regional Council (PERC) of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) holds its founding assembly in Rome (ITUC-CSI, *Founding of the PERC gives hope to European workers*, 20 March 2007).

**19 April:** pursuant to the CJEU *Stamatelaki* judgment, a Member State may not exclude private hospitals in another Member State from the system of reimbursement of hospital costs by a national social security institution to the persons insured with it. Other measures, such as a requirement for prior authorisation or the setting of reimbursement scales, are, however, possible (CJEU, Case C-444/05).

**26 April:** the ETUC, BusinessEurope, UEAPME and CEEP sign an autonomous agreement on harassment and violence at work (*Framework agreement on harassment and violence at work*, 26 April 2007).

**14 June:** in its judgment *Commission v United Kingdom*, the CJEU allows the use, in British occupational safety legislation, of the ‘reasonably practicable’ clause: the employer’s health and safety obligations may be limited by economic considerations (CJEU, case C-127/05).

**21-22 June:** the European Council meeting in Brussels approves the entry of Cyprus and Malta into the euro area on 1 January 2008 (Conclusions, 21-22 June 2007).

**25 June:** the European Parliament (EP) and the Council sign the first two applications for financial aid from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, for Peugeot (PSA) and Renault (OJ L 294 of 13 November 2007: 21-22).

**15 November:** the new European company BASF SE, established in Ludwigshafen (Germany), concludes an agreement on worker participation. This agreement represents significant progress towards far-reaching mandatory involvement of workers in a European company, through BASF's European Works Council and the representation of its workers on the company's supervisory board (ETUC, *BASF SE pioneers stronger worker consultation in Europe*, 22 November 2007).

**6 December:** the European home affairs ministers approve the extension of the Schengen Area to nine new Member States: Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic, as of 21 December 2007 (OJ L 323 of 8 December 2007: 34-39).

**11 December:** the CJEU's *Viking* judgment confirms that the right to collective action is a fundamental right, recognised in international and Community legislation. It can justify restrictions to the fundamental freedom of establishment guaranteed in the EU Treaty, particularly if this is to protect workers and their employment conditions. However, the Court limits the scope of this justification in a way which could hamper the exercising of the right to collective action, particularly in cross-border situations (CJEU, Case C-438/05).

**12 December:** solemn proclamation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. A reference to the Charter will be included in the Lisbon Treaty (OJ C 303 of 14 December 2007: 17-35).

**13 December:** official signing of the Lisbon Treaty. Anti-discrimination policies become a regulatory competence, to be decided by qualified majority voting or by the co-decision procedure. Legislation on the social protection of migrant workers can be applied to both employed and self-employed workers. The EP's oversight role *vis-à-vis* the Commission is strengthened (OJ C 306 of 17 December 2007).

**18 December:** in its *Laval* judgment, the CJEU recognises the presence in Community law of a fundamental trade union right to organise strikes to protest against social dumping. Nevertheless, the judgment condemns the blockade of sites organised after the failure of pay talks for the Latvian workers at the site in question, as this is not a legitimate way to compel the company to join a collective agreement (CJEU, case C-341/05).

## 2008

**1 January:** Cyprus and Malta adopt the euro as their currency. The euro is now the common currency of 15 of the 27 EU Member States (IP/08/2 and IP/08/6).

**12 February:** in its *Bupa* judgment, the Court of First Instance recalls that Member States have considerable leeway in defining services of general economic interest (CJEU, Case T-289/03).

**3 April:** the CJEU, in the *Rüffert* case, establishes that a Member State is not entitled to require companies established in other Member States to apply a collective agreement which is not applicable throughout its territory (CJEU, case C-346/06).

**15 April:** pursuant to the CJEU's *Impact* judgment, the unjustified use of successive fixed-term contracts is illegal. This judgment provides workers on fixed-term contracts with better protection of their rights by EU law (CJEU, case C-268/06).

**17 June:** adoption of Regulation (EC) No 592/2008 amending Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community. The text updates annexed provisions to take account of legislative changes in certain Member States (OJ L 177 of 4 July 2008: 1-5).

**7 July:** the European Commission adopts Regulation (EC) No 800/2008, which automatically authorises State aid promoting employment and growth. This regulation harmonises pre-existing exemptions and extends the categories of State aid covered by these (OJ L 214 of 9 August 2008: 3-47).

**15 September:** the American bank Lehman Brothers, the fourth largest investment bank in the United States, officially files for bankruptcy. Its collapse leads to steep falls on stock markets, with the world ultimately plunging into one of the worst economic and financial crises ever known (*The Financial Times*, 'Lehman Brothers files for bankruptcy', 16 September 2008).

**27-28 September:** the financial crisis reaches the EU. The Belgian, Luxembourg and Netherlands authorities organise a concerted action to rescue Fortis, the Dutch-Belgian banking and insurance company (European Commission, case No. COMP/M.5384 – BNP Paribas/Fortis, 3 December 2008).

**3 October:** the European Commission publishes Recommendation 2008/867/EC on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market. This is structured around three complementary objectives: adequate income support, inclusive labour markets, and access to quality services (OJ L 307/11 of 18 November 2008: 11-14).

**19 November:** adoption of Directive 2008/104/EC on temporary agency work. The directive aims to guarantee equal treatment between temporary agency workers and workers on open-ended contracts, with regard to essential working conditions, access to collective equipment and entitlement to training (OJ L 327 of 5 December 2008: 9-14).

**14 November:** the euro area enters recession (Euractiv, 14 November 2008).<sup>6</sup>

**12 December:** Switzerland becomes the 25<sup>th</sup> member of the Schengen Area (OJ L 53 of 27 February 2008: 50-79).

---

6. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/euro-finance/news/eurostat-euro-zone-officially-enters-recession/>

2009

**1 January:** Slovakia joins the euro area, becoming its 16<sup>th</sup> member (OJ L 195 of 24 July 2008: 1-3)

**10 March:** pursuant to the *Hartlauer v Austria* judgment, the authorisation regimes imposed by the Austrian authorities for the setting up of independent outpatient clinics constitute a restriction to the freedom of establishment (CJEU, case C-169/07).

**6 May:** adoption of Directive 2009/38/EC on the establishment of a European Works Council or procedure in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees. The directive aims to strengthen the provisions applying to European works councils, particularly in cases of restructuring, mergers, or acquisitions, and to increase the number of European works councils in transnational companies (OJ L 122 of 16 May 2009: 28-44).

**18 June:** the Council adopts Regulation (EC) No 546/2009 updating the rules for the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund to the context of the economic and financial crisis (OJ L 167 of 29 June 2009: 26-29).

**18 June:** adoption of Directive 2009/52/EC, the ‘sanctions’ directive, setting out minimum rules for sanctions and measures to be taken against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals. The directive targets the exploitation of such workers (OJ L 168 of 30 June 2009: 133-141).

**18 June:** the ETUC, BusinessEurope, UEAPME and CEEP adopt a revised framework agreement on parental leave, extending its duration by at least three or four months, some of which becomes non-transferable. Workers are entitled to specially-adjusted working conditions on return from parental leave. The social partners or Member States are free to determine how much notice must be given to the employer of the employee’s intention to exercise the right to parental leave (*Framework Agreement on Parental Leave (revised)*, 18 June 2009).

**14 July:** following the European elections, the new European Parliament has 736 members. At 42.9%, turnout continues to fall. The EPP wins 265 seats (36% of the total), the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) 184 seats (25%) and ALDE 84 (11.4 %) (EP, Results of the European elections – 2009 – European Union<sup>7</sup>).

**17 July:** the European Hospital and Healthcare Employers’ Association (HOSPEEM) and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) sign a framework agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector. This agreement covers all workers in the sector, including trainees, apprentices, workers in related services, as well as agency and temporary workers.

---

7. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/en/in-the-past/previous-elections>

**16 September:** adoption of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 laying down the procedures for implementing regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems. This regulation foresees the application of one sole legislation, equal treatment, portability of rights and the aggregation of insurance periods (OJ L 284 of 30 October 2009: 1-42).

**1 December:** entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, entitled the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

2010

**10 February:** José Manuel Barroso starts a second term of office as President of the European Commission (OJ L 20 of 26 January 2010: 5-6).

**8 March:** the Council adopts Directive 2010/18/EU implementing the revised framework agreement on parental leave concluded by BusinessEurope, UEAPME, CEEP and ETUC and repealing directive 96/34/EC (see 18 June 2009) (OJ L 68 of 18 March 2010: 13-20).

**25 March:** the ETUC, BusinessEurope, UEAPME and CEEP sign an autonomous agreement on inclusive labour markets. Its aim is to establish a general framework to ease entry into the labour market, particularly through awareness campaigns, cooperation with education and training systems, and individual competence development plans (*Framework agreement on inclusive labour markets*, 25 March 2010).

**28 April:** adoption of Regulation (EU) No 437/2010 increasing financial support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the renovation and reconstruction of housing for marginalised communities, including Roma communities (OJ L 132 of 29 May 2010: 1-2).

**2 May:** first Economic Adjustment Programme (also called ‘bailout package’) assistance plan for Greece. In return for a 110-billion euro loan over three years, Greece must commit to structural reforms: an end to pay-related benefits and a three-year pay-freeze, greater labour market flexibility and an increase in VAT.

**10 May:** adoption of Directive 2010/32/EU implementing the framework agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector, concluded by HOSPEEM and EPSU (OJ L 134 of 1 June 2010: 66-72).

**16 June:** adoption of Regulation (EU) No 539/2010 providing easier access to the structural funds as a response to the economic crisis (OJ L 158 of 24 June 2010: 1-6).

**17 June:** the European Council opens accession negotiations with Iceland (Conclusions, 17 June 2010).

**17 June:** the European Council adopts the ‘Europe 2020 strategy’, giving priority to employment, research and innovation, combating climate change, education, social inclusion and the fight against poverty (Conclusions, 17 June 2010).

**7 July:** adoption of Directive 2010/41/EU on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity. The purpose of this text is to provide better social protection to self-employed workers, by means of, *inter alia*, maternity and pension benefits (OJ L 180 of 15 July 2010: 1-6).

**7 December:** the Council adopts implementing Decision 2011/77/EU on granting Union financial assistance to Ireland. By means of an 85-billion euro assistance programme negotiated with the Troika, a loan worth 22.5 billion euros will be made available to Ireland via the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM) (OJ L 30 of 4 February 2011: 34-39).

2011

**1 January:** Estonia becomes the 17<sup>th</sup> member of the euro area (OJ L 196 of 28 July 2010: 24-26).

**12 January:** the European Commission publishes the first Annual Growth Survey as part of the European Semester and, more broadly, of the Europe 2020 strategy (IP/11/22).

**14 February:** adoption of Regulation (EU) No. 211/2011 on the European Citizens’ Initiative. As of its entry into force on 1 April 2014, it will allow EU citizens to ask for legislative proposals to be submitted on a particular issue (OJ L 65 of 11 March 2011: 1-22).

**9 March:** adoption of Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare. This text completes the legislation on coordination of social security systems, defining Member States’ responsibilities in dispensing, paying for and reimbursing cross-border healthcare (OJ L 88 of 4 April 2011: 34-39).

**24–25 March:** the European Council adopts the Euro Plus Pact, together with a limited revision of the TFEU Treaty, to include the arrangements for setting up the European Stability Mechanism (ESM). This mechanism replaces the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) and the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM) (Conclusions, 24 and 25 March 2011).

**13 April:** the General Court of the EU annuls part of Regulation (EC) No 983/08 on funding the EU’s ‘Food distribution programme for the most deprived persons’ (PEAD). The programme was attacked by Germany on the grounds that it no longer derived from the Common Agricultural Policy but from social policies which fall under the competences of the Member States (EGC, Case T-576/08).

**3 May:** by means of an implementing decision, the Council approves the economic adjustment programme for Portugal. The programme involves a 78-billion euro loan to Portugal from the EU (provided through the ESM and the EFSF) and the IMF. The loan is conditional on reforms including a wage freeze for civil servants, tax increases and privatisations (OJ L 159 of 17 June 2011: 88-92).

**24 June:** the European Council appoints the Italian Mario Draghi as President of the ECB for eight years as of 1 November 2011 (OJ L 173 of 1 July 2011: 8).

**21 July:** the euro area Heads of State or Government agree on the second assistance plan for Greece and on an extension for the EFSF (European Council, Statement by the euro area Heads of State or Government and EU institutions).

**8-16 November:** the Stability and Growth Pact is radically reformed by a set of five regulations and one directive,<sup>8</sup> making up the ‘Six-Pack’ which comes into force on 13 December. These new pieces of legislation are intended to strengthen budgetary surveillance of Member States and to ensure that they do not run up excessive deficits (OJ L 306 of 23 November 2011).

**20 December:** the European Commission adopts Decision 2012/21/EU on the application of Article 106(2) TFEU to State aid in the form of public service compensation granted to certain undertakings entrusted with the operation of services of general economic interest. This text extends the selection criteria used for public calls for tender (OJ L 7 of 11 January 2012: 289-296).

## 2012

**9 January:** the European Commission raises 3 billion euros on the financial markets via the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism, to be allocated to Ireland and Portugal, two countries receiving EU financial assistance (MEMO /12/138).

**2 February:** the euro area Member States sign an intergovernmental treaty establishing the European Stability Mechanism (ESM). The ESM’s powers to act are strengthened and merged with the European Financial Stability Facility, created two years previously (Treaty establishing the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), European Union, DOC 12/3, 1 February 2012).

**21 February:** the euro area finance ministers announce a new financial assistance agreement for Greece, worth 130 billion euros, in return for a reduction in the minimum wage and continued labour market reforms (*Eurogroup statement*, 21 February 2012).

**2 March:** the European Council grants Serbia the status of candidate country for accession to the EU (Conclusions, 2 March 2012).

---

8. Regulations (EU) No. 1173/2011, (EU) No. 1174/2011, (EU) No. 1175/2011, (EU) No. 1176/2011, (EU) No. 1177/2011 and directive 2011/85/EU.

**25 April:** the European Commission adopts Regulation (EU) No 360/2012 describing the conditions under which support given to providers of general economic interest services is to be understood as not constituting State aid in the meaning of Article 107 TFEU (OJ L 114 of 26 April 2012: 8-13).

**29 June:** the euro area countries decide to grant large-scale financial assistance for recapitalising the Spanish banking sector, up to a potential amount of 100 billion euros (Euro area summit statement, 29 June 2012).

**29 June:** the European Council opens accession negotiations with Montenegro (Conclusions, 29 June 2012).

**6 September:** the European Central Bank (ECB) announces the launch of a new programme, 'Outright Monetary Transactions' (OMT), to buy up the public debt of euro area Member States (ECB, *Technical features of Outright Monetary Transactions*, 6 September 2012).

**25 October:** adoption of Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the internal market information system. This text sets out the rules on the system's usage and codifies the use and exchange of European citizens' personal data between Member States (OJ L 316 of 14 November 2012: 1-11).

**20 November:** the IMF publishes the conclusions of the 6<sup>th</sup> quarterly review of the programme for Portugal, enabling the disbursement of a new 2.5-billion euro instalment, as part of the 78-billion euro international bailout plan for the country (EC, *The Economic Adjustment Programme for Portugal Sixth Review – Autumn 2012*, December 2012).

## 2013

**20 February:** the European Commission publishes a communication entitled 'Towards Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion' – including implementing the European Social Fund 2014–2020'. This document provides guidelines for Member States to meet the Europe 2020 targets, particularly through EU financial support (COM (2013) 83 final, 20 February 2013).

**21 March:** the ECB puts pressure on the Cypriot government to agree to the implementation of an EU/IMF programme; it threatens to cut, on 25 March, the credit line which is keeping the Cypriot banking system afloat (ECB, *Governing Council decision on Emergency Liquidity Assistance requested by the Central Bank of Cyprus*, 21 March 2013).

**25 March:** among the conditions to be met by Cyprus in return for a 10-billion euro loan, the Eurogroup and the IMF impose losses on non-guaranteed deposits exceeding 100,000 euros. This is the first time that savers are asked to contribute – a 'bail-in' (Eurogroup Statement, 25 March 2013).

**22 April:** with the situation of young people on the European labour market deteriorating, the Council publishes a recommendation on the creation of a ‘youth guarantee’ (2013/C 120/01; OJ C120/1 of 26 April 2013: 1-6).

**21 May:** as part of the reform of the Stability and Growth Pact, the EP and the Council adopt Regulations (EU) No 472/12 and 473/13 – a ‘Two-Pack’ on top of the ‘Six-Pack’ (OJ L 140 of 27 May 2013).

**1 July:** Croatia becomes the 28<sup>th</sup> EU Member State (OJ L 112 of 24 April 2012).

**3 July:** according to the Council of Europe’s European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), Sweden is violating the revised European Social Charter, particularly with reference to posted workers following adoption of the ‘Lex Laval’ in the wake of the CJEU’s *Laval* judgment (ECSR, LO and TCO v Sweden, Complaint No. 85/2012, decision on the admissibility and the merits of the Complaint, 3 July 2013).

**27 September:** Cyprus receives a loan instalment of 1.5 billion euros, through the ESM, to recapitalise its banking sector (OJ L 250 of 20 September 2013: 40-44).

**22 October:** adoption of the decision on serious cross-border threats to health, repealing decision 2119/98/EC. The decision is intended to strengthen coordination and cooperation between Member States with a view to improving prevention and better combating serious diseases (OJ L 293 of 5 November 2013: 1-15).

**20 November:** adoption of Directive 2013/55/EU amending directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications, and regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System. The adoption of this directive results in the creation of a European Professional Card (OJ L 354 of 28 December 2013: 132-170).

**17 December:** adoption of six regulations on the implementation of cohesion policy 2014-2020: EU 1299/2013, EU 1300/2013, EU 1301/2013, EU 1302/2013, EU 1304/2013, EU 1305/2013 (OJ L 347: 259-548).

2014

**21 January:** accession negotiations are launched between Serbia and the European Union (Council of the EU, First Accession Conference with Serbia, 5486/14, 21 January 2014).

**12 February:** the International Monetary Fund announces the disbursement of 910 million euros to Portugal; since it first provided financial assistance in May 2011, it has loaned 25.1 billion euros to the country (IMF, Press release No 14/55, 12 February 2014).

**26 February:** adoption of Directive 2014/36/EU on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers (OJ L 94 of 28 March 2014: 375-390).

**19 March:** the European Commission accepts the first European Citizens' Initiative (ECI). The organisers of 'Right2Water' ask it to ensure that all EU citizens enjoy the right to water and sanitation, to exclude water supply and management of water resources from internal market rules and liberalisation, and to increase its efforts to achieve universal access to water and sanitation around the world' (COM (2014) 177 final).

**16 April:** adoption of Directive 2014/50/EU on minimum requirements for enhancing worker mobility between Member States by improving the acquisition and preservation of supplementary pension rights (OJ L 128 of 30 April 2014: 1-7).

**15 May:** Directive 2014/66/EU on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an inter-corporate transfer (OJ L 157 of 27 May 2014: 1-22).

**26-27 June:** the European Council grants Albania candidate country status (Conclusions, 26-27 June 2014).

**1 July:** in the European elections, 751 MEPs are elected, on a turnout of 42.6%. The European People's Party (EPP) wins 221 seats (29.4% of the total), and the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) 191 (25.4 %). For the first time, the European Conservatives and Reformists, with 70 seats (9.3%), come in ahead of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), thus becoming the third biggest European party (EP, Results of the European elections – 2014 – European Union).<sup>9</sup>

**1 November:** the Luxembourger Jean-Claude Juncker, a member of the EPP, takes office as President of the European Commission (OJ L 299 of 17 October 2014: 29-31).

**11 November:** according to the CJEU, the 'citizens' rights directive' and the regulation on coordination of social security systems do not preclude national legislation which excludes nationals of other Member States from enjoying certain 'special non-contributory cash benefits', insofar as those nationals of other Member States do not have a right of residence in the host Member State (CJEU, case C-333/13).

2015

**22 January:** the ECB announces an expanded asset purchase programme. This programme, presented as European-style 'quantitative easing', begins in March 2015, with purchases of 60 billion euros per month of private and public sector securities (ECB, *Introductory statement – Mario Draghi, President of the ECB*, Frankfurt, 22 January 2015).

**4 February:** the ECB suspends acceptance of Greek debt as a guarantee, forcing Greek banks to resort to emergency liquidity to finance their activities; this requires

---

9. See <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/en/in-the-past/previous-elections>

agreement from the ECB's Governing Council, but also means higher borrowing costs (ECB, *Eligibility of Greek bonds used as collateral in Eurosystem monetary policy operations*, Press release, 4 February 2015).

**25 June:** adoption of Regulation (EU) No 2015/1017 establishing the European Fund for Strategic Investments, to be set up in close partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB) (OJ L 169 of 1 July 2015: 1-38).

**5 July:** referendum in Greece on the draft programme proposed by the Troika. The 'no' vote wins with 61.3% of the votes cast, with turnout at 62% (Agence Europe, *Europe Daily Bulletin* No. 11351, 5 July 2015).

**6 July:** in response to the Greek 'no', the ECB maintains Greek banks' access to the 89 billion euros of emergency liquidity assistance. The ECB refuses all Greek requests to increase this amount, severely limiting financial relations between Greece and the other euro area countries (ECB, *ELA to Greek banks maintained*, 6 July 2015).

**19 August:** adoption of the third economic adjustment programme for Greece. The financial aid, a maximum of 86 billion euros, is from the ESM. The programme is planned to continue up until 20 August 2018 (OJ L 209 of 20 August 2015: 12-16).

**15 September:** the CJEU confirms its *Dano* case law by declaring legally valid the German legislation refusing access to social assistance for European citizens who have moved to and settled in a host Member State without being able to meet their own needs (CJEU, case C-67/14).

## 2016

**1 January:** Regulation (EU) No 806/2014 on the Single Resolution Mechanism (SRM) becomes fully operational. The SRM implements Directive 2014/59/EU establishing a framework for the recovery and resolution of credit institutions and investment firms in the euro area. The directive, which applies throughout the Union, aims to stop the public authorities bailing out banks (OJ L 225 of 30 July 2014: 1-90).

**8 March:** in relation to the Five Presidents' Report,<sup>10</sup> the European Commission launches a public consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Pillar, the legal nature of which is unclear, is aimed first and foremost at the euro area countries, though it is open to all other Member States (COM (2016) 127 final).

**10 May:** the national parliaments of Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia trigger the so-called 'yellow card' procedure with regard to the European Commission proposal to amend Directive 96/71/EC on the posting of workers (COM (2016) 505 final, 20 July 2016).

---

**10.** European Commission, *The Five Presidents' Report: completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union*, 22 June 2015.

**12 May:** the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission adopt a new interinstitutional agreement, entitled ‘better regulation’, with a view to improving the quality and results of European legislation. The agreement establishes a set of tools to improve the quality of Union legislation: the use of regular impact analyses; public consultations; *ex post* evaluations of existing legislation to assess its effectiveness, its relevance, its consistency and its added value (OJ L 123 of 12 May 2016: 1-14).

**23 June:** the British people vote on whether the United Kingdom should remain in the EU. The question asked is ‘Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?’ Turnout is 72.2%, and 51.9% of the voters answer ‘leave the European Union’. This is the beginning of ‘Brexit’ (Gov.UK, Brexit).

**30 October:** the European Union and Canada sign a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The agreement stipulates the reduction or abolition of most customs duties and non-tariff barriers. It also triggers strong opposition from many organisations which object to the agreement for social and environmental reasons (OJ L 11 of 14 January 2016: 23-1079).

2017

**15 June:** the Eurogroup releases a loan instalment for Greece. After new austerity measures are adopted by the Greek parliament in May, the Eurogroup envisages public debt relief for Greece at the end of the aid plan if it turns out to be ‘unsustainable’ (*Eurogroup Statement on Greece*, 15 June 2017).

**17 November:** the European Pillar of Social Rights is proclaimed and signed by the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission at the Gothenburg Social Summit for fair jobs and growth. It becomes the driving force behind the European Semester’s social dimension (OJ C 428 of 13 December 2017: 10-15).

**20 December:** the CJEU rules that the service connecting ‘Uber’ non-professional drivers with passengers must be classified as a ‘service in the field of transport’. Member States may, therefore, regulate the conditions applicable to the provision of this service.

2018<sup>11</sup>

**21 February:** the CJEU, ruling on the stand-by time of a Belgian firefighter, confirms that this time should be considered working time, even if the employee is on stand-by at home, in line with Belgian labour law (CJEU, Case C 518/15).

**22 February:** the CJEU rules that, in the case of a collective redundancy, pregnancy is not a sufficient reason to prevent redundancy. Conversely, neither should pregnancy (or the fact of having recently given birth) become a priority criterion when deciding on redundancies (CJEU, case C-103/16).

---

11. As indicated in footnote 1, a full-blown chronology for 2018 is available online at [bit.ly/ETUIBilan1999-2019](http://bit.ly/ETUIBilan1999-2019)

**21-22 June:** the Eurogroup announces the end of the third financial bailout plan for Greece and agrees to grant it a final loan of 15 billion euros (*Eurogroup Statement on Greece*, 22 June 2018).

**28 June:** adoption of Directive 2018/957/EU on the posting of workers. The principle of ‘equal pay for equal work in the same place’ is still the underlying doctrine of the new directive. Posted workers in a country will receive the same allowances and reimbursements as nationals. Posting is limited to one year. The transport sector is excluded from the scope (OJ L 173 of 9 July 2018: 16-24).

**28 June:** adoption of Directive 2018/958/EU on a proportionality test before adoption of new regulation of professions. This text establishes rules on the execution of proportionality tests by Member States before creating or amending regulations applicable to professions (OJ L 173 of 9 July 2018: 25-34).

**6 September:** the CJEU rules that posted workers who replace other posted workers cannot be considered an exception to the rule: all workers fall under the social security regime of the country where they work, not that of their country of origin (CJEU, case C-527/16).

**4 October:** the CJEU rules that time spent on parental leave may not be considered as a period of actual work when used as a reference period to establish the number of days of a worker’s annual leave (CJEU, case C-12/17).

## Sources

- Barbier C., Chronology, in *Social developments in the European Union* (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 editions), Brussels, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and European Social Observatory (OSE).
- Barbier C., Chronology, in *Social policy in the European Union: state of play* (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 editions), Brussels, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and European Social Observatory (OSE).
- Crespy A. (2019) *L’Europe sociale. Acteurs, politiques, débats*, Brussels, Ed. Université de Bruxelles.
- Degryse C., Chronology, in *Social developments in the European Union* (2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 editions), Brussels, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and European Social Observatory (OSE).
- Eur-Lex, accession treaties. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/treaties/treaties-accession.html?locale=fr> [Last accessed: 24.05.2019]
- Europe daily bulletin. <https://agenceurope.eu>
- Fronteddu B. and Bouget D. (2019) *The European Union in 2018: key events*, available online at: [bit.ly/ETUIBilan1999-2019](http://bit.ly/ETUIBilan1999-2019)
- Lapeyre J. (2017) *The European social dialogue. The history of a social innovation (1985-2003)*, Brussels, ETUI.
- Pochet P. (2019) *A la recherche de l’Europe sociale*, Paris, Ed. Presses Universitaires de France.
- Sénat (France), Europe. <https://www.senat.fr/europe/index.html> [Last accessed: 24.05.2019].

All links were checked on 28 November 2019.